

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A plastic screw cap (1) for screwing onto a thread on a bottle neck (11) of a bottle (13) made of glass or plastic, comprising a cap bottom (3) and connected thereto a cylindrical cap envelope (5), at an inner side of ~~which~~ the cap envelope a screw thread (7) is formed for engagement with the thread of the bottle neck (11); a closure membrane (37) ~~supported on~~ is disposed between the cap bottom (3) ~~by~~ at least one circumferential resilient spacer (31) that can rest on the membrane opposite and a top face (33) of the bottle neck (11); further circumferential resilient spacer (31) is disposed between closure member (37) and cap bottom (3); characterized in that a sealing lip (19) is formed radially outwards of the spacer (31) and concentric thereto on the cap bottom (3) and can ~~rest on~~ engage a surface of the closure membrane (37), and in that the cap bottom (3) comprises, at least in a zone (S₁) lateral to a root (29) of the sealing lip (19), a region of reduced thickness that forms an elastic zone and defining a groove (28) for temporarily receiving a part of the closure membrane (37) when the pressure within the bottle (13) is increased.

Claim 2 (Original): A screw cap according to Claim 1, characterized in that regions of reduced thickness are formed in the cap bottom (3) bilaterally of the root (29) of the sealing lip (19).

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A screw cap according to claim 1, characterized in that the sealing lip (19) ~~protrudes beyond~~ extends axially downwardly from a peak of the spacer (31) ~~at a height (h2) axially downwards to a height (h1).~~

Claim 4 (Original): A screw cap according to Claim 3, characterized in that the sealing lip (19) defines an inner side face (25) with a circumferential step (P) forming a pressure edge.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A screw cap according to Claim 4, characterized in that the step (P) is located at the same height (h_2) as the peak of the at least one spacer (31) when it is in an unpressurized condition.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A screw cap according to claim 1, characterized in that radially inside of the first spacer (31), a second spacer (35) is formed on the cap bottom.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): A screw cap according to claim 1, characterized in that the cap bottom (3) defines a circular groove (36) radially inside the spacer (31) thus reducing the thickness of the cap bottom (3).

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): A screw cap according to claim 1, characterized in that the closure membrane (37) has a greater thickness (d_1) at least in a zone wherein it is contacted by the bottle neck than the thickness (d_2) in a central zone thereof.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): A screw cap according to claim 1, characterized in that the sealing lip (19) is divided into several segments (19').

Claim 10 (Original): A screw cap according to Claim 9, wherein the segments (19') are formed either by indentations (19'') in the circumferential sealing lip (19) or by separate segments (19') spaced by a length (A) which is the same as or greater than the length (B) of the segments (19').